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WAY TO SHOW INTENTIONS.

If President Obregon intended to go over the heads of the government authorities by making a statement to the American public he must be aware from the response which it has called forth from Washington that he will gain nothing by it. Rather will it be regarded as sufficient ground for standing by the position which has been taken by the state department to the effect that there must be an agreement between the two governments concerning the protection of American rights and property before there can be any recognition of the Obregon government by the United States.

Obregon is quoted as declaring that "Not only have we made repeated official declarations that Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution would not be given retroactive effect, but we have forbidden any action whatsoever that might give any such appearance." That may be true today but how about tomorrow? If this country had had relations with Mexico which would warrant it in accepting any such statement that might be regarded as sufficient, but in its present demand it is guided by experience. It is well understood what has happened in American lives and property in Mexico when Mexico was pledged to protect American subjects the same as those of other countries.

If Obregon takes the position that Mexico has declared its intentions by its statement, and that its intentions are to see that American rights and property are protected there ought to be no harm in an agreement to that effect. That would give all concerned something definite to the up to and it would amount to more than what Obregon claims Mexico has done. There is no telling what Mexico might do after recognition even though it claims its intentions are of the best at the present time. A written declaration is always regarded as more binding than a verbal one and it ought to be plain to President Obregon that the best way to definitely show the real intentions of his country is to enter into a formal understanding.

STRIKING PUBLIC SERVANTS.

It is an unfortunate situation in Quebec where the firemen and policemen have gone on a strike to enforce a demand for higher wages. As might be expected in such a case, whether fostered by the strikers or not, there is bound to be an increase in lawlessness, but the street of the president of the firemen's organization and the search by the authorities for many others indicates that the strike is not what might be called peaceful and that the trouble which has developed does not all come from the strikers.

There are numerous instances of the detrimental effects accompanying such trouble. Montreal had its experience where not an very different conditions prevailed than are being reported from Quebec and Boston also had its difficulties along similar lines. Such strikes are of course directed against the public and under the conditions it is to be expected that violence must be placed to a large degree upon such reserves as the respective departments can command and upon those who volunteer to meet the emergency.

The striking policemen in Boston were responsible for a brief period of lawlessness in that city. If didn't last long because those who filled their places quickly filled into their jobs, but the action resulted in a complete failure so far as having their demands met. Since that time they have come to the realization of the folly of their course and the mistake that was made in not listening to reason.

Where strikes of such a character take place it simply serves notice upon the lawless element to get busy and do their worst. There are enough of such a class to cause plenty of trouble for police and fire organizations that are willing to work hand in glove with them. It is a mistake to think that when among the strikers' undertakes to lead such an element in acts of destruction and violence, Boston policemen by their acts put themselves out of their jobs permanently and admit their mistake. Perhaps those in Quebec who yet come to recognize the error of their action.

GREEK CONFIDENCE.

By his action in declining the offer of mediation from the allies King Constantine of Greece gives notice that he believes he has the strength to administer defeat to the Turkish nationalists. It was not so long ago that there was a similar feeling displayed. For a time all went well with the Greek army but there came a time when they struck a snag and since that time, having been thrown back with frightful losses, Greece has been using all possible effort to not only stand its ground but to open a new offensive.

Had the offer of mediation been accepted this offensive would have been upset. It would have led Greece to a disadvantage in connection with the negotiations for it was certainly not demonstrated that it was able by force to command the situation in Asia Minor.

While Greece has been feeling the effects of its setbacks, although it has by no means been discouraged, the Turkish nationalists have been gaining in strength and are even said to have entered into an alliance with the Bolsheviks and to be threatening Constantinople. They have been better equipped as to men and resources than they were at the time but Greece has likewise been suffering from all possible effects and be-

lieves that it has gotten to the point where it can strike the Turks hard and win, and by doing so get into a much more favorable position when the time comes to negotiate peace in that quarter, even though they may not be victorious in all their engagements.

Certainly there can be little reason for trying to curb the Turks and their ruthlessness in that region. The Greeks of course assume the responsibility connected with their campaign by declining mediation, yet they appear to be willing to take the chance and have confidence in the judgment of their leaders that they can win.

GETTING GOVERNMENT IN DEEPER.

There has been presented to congress a bill calling for the formation of a government corporation of which the capital shall be \$100,000,000 for the purpose of increasing the export business in our agricultural products. The senate agricultural committee is at the present time holding a hearing on the bill and not a little light must have been shed upon the proposition when Secretary Hoover states before the committee and exposed the bill.

The secretary was careful to state that he was not opposed to the idea aimed at in the bill—the stimulation of agricultural exports—but he didn't believe that it was anything but a government scheme to get the government in deeper. The method was inadvisable. The situation seems to be that there are plenty who want our agricultural products but they haven't the money or the credit with which to obtain them. Private enterprise doesn't possess sufficient confidence to swing the proposition, so it is proposed that the government do it. Should that be looked upon favorably by congress it would mean that this government would be providing the money whereby those outside the country could buy farm products in this country, or that this government would pay the farmers for their products and take the chance of getting the money some time in the future which private capital is unwilling to do.

If anything is going to be done the money might just as well be loaned directly to the farmers of this country instead of providing the credit for which there in other countries may get our farm products. In the matter of providing credit this country has gone a long way. It may well stop and ponder as to whether it wants to get in any deeper. Mr. Hoover has touched upon the advisability of such a plan from a business standpoint and in what he had to say the committee should find much ground for serious consideration before making its report.

MEDICINAL BEER.

True to expectations the lower house of congress has acted favorably upon the bill which will prevent the putting into force of the decision handed down by Attorney General Palmer on the eve of his retirement from office to the effect that physicians could prescribe beer for their patients. It was not done without opposition but the opponents were not numerous enough to block favorable action. The senate will probably act upon the measure this week.

There can hardly be any question but what the sale of beer and even the licensing of the business, would be preferable to the long list of intoxicants that are obtainable by most anyone who wants them and are willing to pay the price. Whether beer has any medicinal benefit or not it could not be as harmful as the stuff that is on sale and which prohibition has not made it impossible to get.

But that isn't apparently the question that guided the members of congress in favoring legislation that would prevent the manufacture of medicinal beer. By its action the lower house indicates that it believes that the medicinal beer arrangement is but a subterfuge, that if it was not blocked it would mean that the physicians would have little bearing upon the ability to get it as a beverage and that the feeling prevails that such a lowering of the bars was not intended and should not be permitted. Nothing has served to bring about such an attitude more than the way in which it is possible to obtain liquor throughout the country through prescriptions regardless of sickness.

On the other hand there are those even among the ardent prohibitionists who maintain that the drys are going too far in the placing of restrictions upon the legitimate use of alcohol, and they are not backward in making such declarations even though they are fully cognizant of the fact that there is a great amount of disrespect for the law which is on the statute books, which has been legally enacted and which is held to be constitutional.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The man on the corner says: Talk may be cheap but it is well to pay some attention to the quality.

Every little bit helps, but there is need right away of two or three more just such rains as our last one.

What should amount to a boost for the coal bill which Senator Frelinghuysen urges is the opposition of the coal lobby.

Good advice to the man with the hoe is to keep busy and stay cool, but advice is sometimes easier to give than to follow.

The preparations that are being made in Greenfield are all in the interest of a safe and sane celebration of the Fourth.

When it comes to a vacation, anticipation and realization may be far apart but everyone is justified in wanting his own experience.

If there are efforts to get a prize fighter out of prison so he can see the big battle Saturday why not try to get the mail out?

In a list of hot weather don'ts a doctor advises that alcoholic beverages be avoided, just as if he had never heard of prohibition.

When the socialists set out to see how many will join them it looks as if they were after that radical anti-Gompers crowd in labor circles.

As was expected Governor Lake signed the bill blocking the loophole in the bigamy law. The need of it had been made too plain to neglect the remedy.

The one disappointment over those Bolshevik pirates from the shipping board standpoint is that they didn't manage to get away with the wooden ships.

Greece is going to take the chance of drawing first blood from the Turks to strengthen its position with the allies. But has it considered the possibilities of defeat?

QUENCHING HER ENTHUSIASM

"Thank goodness that's over," gasped the red-headed girl as she relinquished the phone and staggered to the couch. "If only I knew how they get that way!"

"Your conversation sounded awfully funny from this end," suggested the girl who was trying her hair a new way. "It sort of surprised up and down."

"Why shouldn't it?" demanded the exhausted girl with red hair. "That Mrs. Parkinoff may be a perfect lady, but she can't keep track of her mind. I don't know where it wanders when she is seated at the telephone, but it must be busy engaged, because she wants everything repeated. And I don't know anything more calculated to congest one's tactical social impulses than that!"

"For instance, I say with just the right inflection that it is so lovely of her to have sent me the invitation and I am so sorry that I cannot come because her dinner is invariably such a success. I didn't quite get that," says Mrs. Parkinoff in reply. Rather dashed, I repeat. "Your dinner are always such a success and you don't know how sorry I am that I cannot come. It was lovely of you to invite me!"

"What was that last?" murmurs Mrs. Parkinoff. All my sweet tones have dried up by now. I take a long breath and in deep, vicious accents, as though I were calling the lady hard names, I growl at her: "You were lovely to invite me." It sounds as though I were throwing a brick at her instead of being gracefully regretful.

"Then she understands and says she expects the notice was rather short for such a popular young person as myself, whereupon I feel called upon to enter the stereotyped denial. Oh, no, Mrs. Parkinoff, I protest with girlish emphasis, that is just your nice way of putting it—I feel a very humdrum, quiet life."

"There is such a lot of noise outside," Mrs. Parkinoff responds, that I could not hear you, my dear—what did you say?" It is awfully hard to repeat a loud assertion to one's detriment. It sort of runs in and is irritating. I said, I rehearse, that I am very quiet and humdrum and don't go out much at all. It makes me very low in my mind, hearing the fact a second time, and if she makes me say it again I am convinced that life has nothing more in store for me, and I may as well take up knitting. Remember me to that attractive husband of yours. I add presently, trying to make a graceful farewell. "What?" inquires Mrs. Parkinoff, absentmindedly. Now, I can say once, with

good grace, that Mrs. Parkinoff is attractive, because it doesn't mean anything, but when I must go on saying it in fainter and fainter accents of enthusiasm, several times, before his wife comprehends it, I begin to doubt. "I tell you nothing is so discouraging as getting off some lightness, chatty remark and being hailed up and told to repeat it once or twice. I defy any one to keep on being chatty. And then there is George!"

"Oh, he just likes to hear your voice," commented the girl who was pinning her hair into weird coils. "You are a little sunshine, aren't you?" said the red-headed girl. "Whenever I get off something particularly jocular and coy to George over the telephone that is the time a truck rolls by his window or somebody falls downstairs and he has to ask me over again what I said."

"I don't believe a word you say," I tell George in the tone of voice which means that I don't mean it at all. In fact, the way I tell George I don't believe him is such a world of art that it is a compliment good and proper. "What?" inquires George. "I don't believe a word you say!" I repeat, and it sounds as though I were hurling my gauntlet upon the floor in mortal challenge. If I were a man and said it like that to his wife George would promptly lead with his right and no blame to him. As it is, he is disturbed. I have practically called him a liar, and that is no way for a lady to act.

"You can't blame George for beginning to think maybe that little Hoochman girl with the black eyes is a real sweet, womanly little girl and that red hair always does mean temper, now don't you?" "Or say I am trying to thank him for the box of flowers. I throw all the rich warm feeling into my voice that I can manage and tell him how perfectly sweet of him it was to think of me and that the roses are wonderful. A lot of the fellows are roughhousing," says George, and I couldn't hear you; what did you say?"

"Now, Shakespeare and nature never repeat. I can't manage that tone of voice again to save my life, and when I say it over I might just as well be repeating the multiplication table. George thinks I am silly and maybe I don't get any more roses! And it's all his fault!"

"It's always the man's fault," another girl who had finally decided on her hair. "Only they won't believe it. If I were you I'd send telegrams."—Exchange.

ODD INCIDENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

The average history of the United States is more or less vague as to just what is meant by the Underground Railroad which was a means of transport for giving the opportunity to escape from their masters during the exciting agitation previous to the Civil war. The question of slavery had found many strong opponents in the north who formed themselves into organizations to assist such slaves, in spite of the fugitive slave law then in existence, and they caused no end of trouble not only to the slave owners concerned, but to their own state and municipal governments.

The Underground Railroad was the popular designation given to those systematic co-operative efforts which were made by the freeing slaves to aid them in eluding the pursuit of their owners. This "institution," as it was familiarly called, played an important part in the great drama of slavery and anti-slavery. By the aid of the Underground Railroad thousands were enabled to escape. The practical workings of this system required "stations" at convenient distances, or rather the houses or persons who hid themselves in readiness to receive fugitives, singly or in numbers, at any hour of the day or night, to feed and shelter, to clothe them if necessary, to conceal them until they could be dispatched with safety to some other point along the route. There were others who hid themselves in readiness to take them by private or public conveyance.

When the wide extent of territory embraced by the Middle States and all the Western States is born in mind, and it is remembered that the whole was dotted with these stations and covered with a network of imaginary routes not found in the railway guides or on the faithful men and women, ever on the alert to succor the coming fugitive and equally intent on deceiving and thwarting his pursuers, that there were always trusty conductors waiting to take their living freight, often by unfrequented roads, on dark and stormy nights, safely on their way, these are materials from which to estimate approximately at least, the amount of labor performed upon the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad system seemed to be practically along the entire border between the two opposing sections. It was composed of a chain of friends and houses of refuge for the fleeing negro from Maryland through Pennsylvania and New York or New England to Canada, and from Kentucky and Virginia through Ohio to Lake Erie or the Detroit river.

If the fugitive successfully eluded pursuit until he reached the first station he was reasonably sure of reaching his goal. He was given a pass to the next station, and was so conducted until he arrived under the protection of the British flag. Men of reputation were engaged in the work. Samuel J. May, for example, in the Underground Railroad. Theodore Parker was one of its managers. Thurlow Weed would sometimes turn away from his editorial labors to give aid and comfort to a runaway slave. There was a strong underground current of sympathy with the fugitive when it did not go to the length of breaking the law, winked at its infraction. The number of fugitives who escaped into the free states annually exceeded more than a thousand. The number of fugitives of which an account was kept, from the passage of the 1850 law to the middle of 1856, was only two hundred.

Although the federal constitution required that all escaped slaves should be returned this task was generally left to the state laws and courts and was performed skilfully if at all. One of the most active of the northerners in the Underground Railroad service was the Rev. Amos A. Phelps, who was commonly styled the president of the concern and he claims to have been actively engaged in the business for thirty-three years and to have received into his house an average of one hundred fugitives annually. Prof. Phelps in his exhaustive work on the subject, names of 3,211 "agents, station keepers and conductors." He credits Daniel Gihons of Lancaster, Pa., with having aided 1,200 fugitives to reach a Canadian and other activities with almost an equal number. Many of those concerned in this service were heavily fined for violation of the fugitive slave law. Thomas Garrett alone paying \$5,000, but the occasion.

Gleaned from Foreign Exchanges.

One result of the coal trade dispute is the enormous increase in the claims of the railway companies on the government under the railway agreement. Sir F. Hall, in the house of commons yesterday asked what was the estimated loss to the railways due to curtailment and loss of traffic and other causes arising out of the coal dispute, and how such loss would be met. Sir Eric Geddes replied that the claims against the government by the railway companies for the month of March amounted to nearly £2,500,000, and for April to about £3,500,000. No later figures were available. The loss would fall on the general taxpayers.

Methodist Union—The big scheme for uniting the Wesleyan Methodist, United Methodist and Primitive Methodist churches will at any rate not be brought to fruition this year. Although it originated in an invitation from the Wesleyan Methodists, so far the chief opposition has come from a section of that body. Most of laymen favor the scheme but there is by no means unanimity among the ministers.

Killing the Fish—Sea fisheries in Kent and Essex, it was reported at a meeting at the Fishmongers' hall yesterday, are being seriously affected by the discharge of crude oil into the Thames, which is killing the fish. It was stated that the board of agriculture and fisheries are convening a conference and probably legislation will be introduced to prevent the discharge of the poisonous liquid. The chairman said if something was not done speedily the fishing industry would be ruined.

Prices are Dropping—That the cost of living undoubtedly is falling is shown by a comparison of prices now with those of a year ago. John Lawrie, managing director of Messrs. Whiteley's told a "Daily Chronicle" representative that throughout the stores there is an average reduction of about 25 per cent. In some instances, he pointed out, customers can today buy merchandise at half last year's prices, and here are cases where owing to the fact that manufacturers or wholesalers were heavily stocked, the fall as much as 75 per cent.—London Chronicle.

Stories That Recall Others

What Was Wrong With It. A mother is trying to teach her children the right sort of charity. Whenever the family has a luxury, no matter how small it is, she always sends

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At YOUR GROCER

a bit of it to one of the family friends or to one who is not able to afford such an article—usually to the latter class. She also insists that the children of the family divide their toys and candy with other children who have none.

Now, the other night she baked a big pudding for supper. She forgot to flavor it and the children detected the "miss" in their way; these are materials from which to estimate approximately at least, the amount of labor performed upon the Underground Railroad.

But at the door she paused and surveyed the four tots. "Now, I'll tell you one thing that is wrong with the pudding," she said impressively. "We forgot to give any of it away. Joseph, you come and take a little dish of it over to Mrs. W. (a widow in the neighborhood) and we'll all wait for you."

The dish of pudding was over to Mrs. W.'s home, the sauce received an extra portion of vanilla and soon the entire

family was eating pudding which they said was perfectly splendid. But the little lesson the mother had intended

to teach was taught all right, for eight-year-old Joseph announced at the dinner table that he had given a little bit of the pudding to Mrs. W. "You don't give a little bit of them away."



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